

In re Patent Application of
NELSON ET AL.
Serial No. 10/733,739
Filed: DECEMBER 11, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the present application and for properly withdrawing the prior rejection based upon the Ryhiner patent. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the present rejection over Severs et al. for the reasons presented in detail below.

I. The Claimed Invention

Independent Claim 1, for example, is directed to an electrical power generating apparatus including a housing, an electrical generator within the housing, and a turbine for driving the electrical generator. The apparatus also includes an alternating current (AC) step-up transformer within the housing and connected to the electrical generator.

Independent Claim 21 is a method counterpart to Claim 1.

Independent Claim 12 is similar to Claim 1 and further recites that the electrical generator has an output of at least about 50-megawatts. Independent Claim 17 is also similar to Claim 1 and further recites a barrier wall within the housing and between the electrical generator and the AC step-up transformer.

II. Claims 1-28 Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 12, 17 and 21 over the Severs et al. patent. The Severs et al. patent discloses a structure for an underwater nuclear power

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generating plant including three distinct spheres 150, 180, 190 for housing essential equipment.

The Examiner contends that the Severs et al. patent discloses a housing 10 for an electrical generator and an alternating current (AC) step-up transformer, as recited in independent Claims 1, 12 and 17. However, reference number 10 is described as an underwater nuclear power plant structure (Col. 4, lines 61-62), and the number 10 does not appear in any of the figures of the Severs et al. patent. Thus, reference number 10 can only be understood as referring to the entire Severs et al. apparatus and is not a housing for an electrical generator and an alternating current (AC) step-up transformer as the Examiner mistakenly contends.

Even if the Examiner inadvertently intended to reference the triangular platform 100 illustrated in FIGS. 1-4 as the claimed housing, the triangular platform is for supporting three sphere housings 150, 180, 190 (Col. 5, lines 44-51) and in no way can be considered the claimed housing. Indeed, the electrical generator and transformer are positioned within distinct housings, namely the respective generating sphere 180 and support sphere 190 (Col. 9, lines 37-39; Col. 12, lines 10-12). Thus, the Severs et al. patent not only fails to disclose a housing for an electrical generator and an alternating current (AC) step-up transformer, as recited in independent Claims 1, 12 and 17, Severs et al. teaches away from such.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 12, 17 and 21 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent

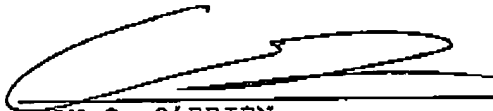
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claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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